

Cluster News

December 2010

Issue No.6

For all of our children, parents, carers, families and the local community.

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Helping new students to settle in at Roade School Sports College

In June thirty students from Roade School Sports College and the feeder primary schools came together to take on the challenge of researching, writing and producing an "Everything You Need to Know" booklet about joining Roade School Sports College. The pack was aimed at the September 2010 intake of Year 7 students and their parents and included a colour coded map, information about clubs and activities, homework, the library, missing the bus home, frequently asked questions (FAQs) and much, much more. A copy of each booklet is now available in all Year 7 form rooms as well as the main library.

The students received training to help them become Mentors/Ambassadors for the school, along with learning how to ☺ Be a positive role model for year 6's joining Roade School Sports College ☺ Represent Roade School Sports College during transition and other events ☺ Work with others from mixed schools and year groups ☺ Be supportive to pupils feeling vulnerable or isolated during the transition to secondary school ☺ Use their initiative ☺ Be responsible for themselves and other learners.

A big thank you to the students who participated.

In addition to this worthwhile project, Roade School Sports College hosted a workshop for a group of Year 6's moving up to Roade School Sports College. The workshop was specifically aimed at students who might feel

Parent Support Advisor, Wendy Watts, is available to offer support and advice to parents/carers of pupils at Roade School Sports College and the feeder Primary Schools. 07917 8753200



concerned about their move from their small, rural primary schools or were perhaps the only one coming to Roade from their previous school. The group spent the day together and enjoyed meeting new friends, Year 8 Ambassadors and key staff (including the Head of Year 7), getting to know the campus and eating in the canteen. They also had the opportunity to participate in fun 'learning to learn' sessions and team building/friend making activities. The workshop proved a success with the students feeling more comfortable about starting Roade School in the September as they already had the foundations of their life at Roade School.

These projects, supported by all of the schools in the Salcey Cluster and facilitated by the University of the First Age (UFA Northants), were part of the Transition programme aimed at making the move from Primary to Secondary School easier. Both projects were well received and, hopefully, will form the basis of future transition programmes and ongoing support for students.

Natasha Mycawka, University of the First Age (UFA) - Study Support, CYPs, Northamptonshire County Council



Ashton Primary School



Blisworth Primary School



Collingtree Primary School



Roade School Sports College



Hardingstone Primary School



Hartwell Primary School



Roade Primary School

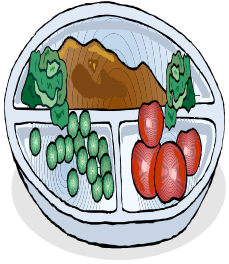


Stoke Bruerne Primary School



Hackleton Primary School


ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FREE SCHOOL MEALS? Free meals are



available to any eligible full-time school student (this includes nursery children who attend full days and also sixth form students, but not students studying at college, UNI etc). You can get free school meals for your child if you or your partner gets either ♦Income Support ♦Income based Job Seekers Allowance ♦Child Tax Credit only (with a family income of less than £16,190 as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) ♦National Asylum Seekers Support ♦Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit ♦Employments and Support Allowance - Income Related only

Please note: If you are currently in receipt of Working Tax Credit then you do not qualify for free school meals.

Will it be obvious that my child is in receipt of free school meals? No, where hot meals are provided they will be served in the same way as everyone else and make distinction. Where packed lunches are provided at Primary School (where hot meals are not currently available) the school can put the packed lunch into a lunchbox that you send to school. You are advised to speak to the primary school to confirm the arrangements.

How and when do I apply? You can apply anytime.  You can apply online (and get an immediate answer) or ✉ You can apply in writing – ask at the school office for a form or contact the Free School Meals Team at Northamptonshire County Council.

What information do you need? You will need to supply your National Insurance Number, your date of birth, your surname, your full address and your child(ren)'s details.

If your child attends Roade School Sports College you will also need to provide a clear photo of them for their ID card (they will use this to access their meal in the canteen).

You do not have to provide evidence of your benefits to apply for Free School Meals, unless you are applying for Free School Meals because you have become unemployed or reduced your hours (under 16 hours per week) and are still in receipt of Working Families Tax Credit. For all other eligible benefits we use an online checking system provided by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, which enables us to decide whether you are eligible or not.

How will the school know my child is entitled? If you are eligible your child's school will be notified within five working days but the County Council advise that you contact the school directly to find out when the free meals will start (some primary schools have to order meals a week in advance) and if you need to select/order meals for your child.

For more information about the free school meals service please contact Free School Meals, Northamptonshire County Council, John Dryden House, 8-10 The Lakes, Northampton, NN4 7DD or you can email freeschoolmeals@northamptonshire.gov.uk



PASS IT ON - Turn 2 Us is a Grants Database containing details of 3,500 charitable funds and organisations that give grants. This includes all publicly-registered funds that give at least £500 a year to individuals who may be in financial need and have welfare needs or be on a low income and require help with the costs. The website address is www.turn2us.org.uk - why not take a look to see if your family is eligible for any help

PARENTS PITSTOP - Every Thursday in the Rewards Room through from the Main Library. Drop in for a drink and a chat. We are here to offer support and a listening ear for parents grandparents and carers of students at Roade School and Sports College Contact:

S. Ackerley – sackerley@roadesschool.northants.sch.uk

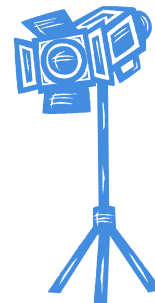
D. Norton – dnorton@roadesschool.northants.sch.uk

R. Patel – rpatel@roadesschool.northants.sch.uk

Tel: 01604 862125 ext: 145



SPOTLIGHT - SCHOOL CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES



Making Christmas a Family Event

Snowmen, reindeer, Santa's and Christmas trees were amongst the jazzy Christmas Cards created during the Christmas Card Making workshops at Hardington Primary School during November.

The intergenerational Christmas Card Making Workshops were designed to give children, grandparents, parents/carers and members of the community the opportunity to come along and make cards using traditional and modern techniques in a relaxed and friendly environment whilst fostering family and community cohesion.

The first Workshop saw children and adults creating beautiful cross stitch and/or personalised computer generated cards. A huge thank you to Jamie Chalmers, also known as Mr X Stitch, who facilitated the Cross Stitch element of the workshop.



The second workshop saw attendees busily create fantastic decoupage and embossed cards. A massive thank you to Jo and Rosalind from Coleman's who facilitated both parts of the workshop.



The workshops were supported by the 'School of Life' programme which promotes skills exchange between young and older people, whilst also breaking down perceived barriers.

Putting on the Ritz

The next Intergenerational Project will be hosted by Hartwell Primary in February 2011 and we will be inviting children, grandparents, parents/carers and members of the community to come along for a morning of 'strictly start dancing'.



New Breakfast and After School Club at Hardington Primary School

Hardington Primary School are pleased to announce that they are seeking a provider to set up and run a new Breakfast and After School club. Interviews with shortlisted providers will be held on 8 December, more information to follow.

CONGRATULATIONS

.. to Collingtree Primary School and Hardington Primary Schools who achieved 'extended school' status in September 2010.



northampton
sport unlimited

"Get Up, Get Out...
Get Involved"

Sport Unlimited is a three year, £34 million national initiative to get more children and young people taking part in sports within the community.

sport unlimited offers up to 10 weeks of coaching at a reduced cost to children from the 100+ participating Local Councils, Independent and Charity clubs...

For more information visit www.sportunlimitednorthampton.co.uk

Or contact:
Email: info@sportunlimitednorthampton.co.uk
Phone: 01604 937774
Text: 01744 741261

Visit us online
www.sportunlimitednorthampton.co.uk

Logos for sport unlimited, sport, northampton, SSS, and SPORT ENGLAND.

Time4U
School Based Services

Here @ Roade
Every Monday
Lunchtime

The Northampton Community School

Confidential
Service covering
issues such as...

BULLYING
relationships

free CHLAMYDIA
SCREENING

sexual health

FREE PREGNANCY TESTS

free CONDOMS

Teacher Free Zone

Please help us to help you by
Raising Money for Time4Talk in the school

Logos for NHS and Northamptonshire Provider Services.

HOME ACCESS

**Get on in school
get online at home**

If you are a low-income family who currently lack access to a computer and/or the internet, you could get a grant for:

- a computer
- one year's internet access
- service safety features and support.

To get an application form, call:
0333 200 1004

For information on school holiday clubs and activities please contact the FIS on 01604 237935 or email fis@northamptonshire.gov.uk

HOLIDAY CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Northamptonshire County Council's Families Information Service offer assistance and advice on a range of services including Holiday Clubs and/or Activities. For help and information please ring 01604 237935 (weekdays 9am to 5pm), e-mail earlyyears@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Alternatively DirectGov has a useful search service which helps you find details of Holiday Clubs and/or Activities via a postcode search – visit <http://childcarefinder.direct.gov.uk/childcarefinder>

- ◆ Lings Forum offer 'Fun Zone' supervised activities for 8-13 year olds during all school holidays. Activities range from cinema, art, sport, team building, Wi Fit, Play Station, bouncy castle, yoga and trampolining. Daily or weekly programmes offered (Mon – Fri, excluding Bank Hols) 8.30 – 5.30pm. Up to 80% of the cost can be claimed via Working Tax Credits for those eligible. For more information contact Lings Forum Leisure Centre on 01604 837300 or visit the Leisure and Culture of Northampton Borough Council website – www.northampton.gov.uk
- ◆ Tropical Encounters – an exciting activity for children and young people aged 2-16 to meet with many live, captive bred exotic animals at an interactive show at Lings Forum Leisure Centre. 22 December 2-4pm £2 per ticket, booking essential. 01604 838049.
- ◆ Northampton Saints and Northamptonshire County Cricket Club have joined forces to offer two one-day combined rugby/cricket courses in December at Northampton High School. The courses will be held on December 21 and 22 for seven to nine year-olds and 10 to 12 year-olds respectively. Each day is split into two halves with the morning consisting of fun rugby-orientated games and the afternoon focusing on the core cricket skills and a game of quick cricket. The cost is £40 with a £5 discount available for Bernie Gang members. Please contact the community department on 01604 599113/116 to obtain the discount code to book online.
- ◆ Northampton Town Football Club usually holds holiday activities. For more information contact the Holiday Course Hotline 01604 683765
- ◆ Country Parks often have family based activities for more information contact Northamptonshire County Council on 01604 236236 or visit <http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Leisure/countryside/Pages/Events.aspx>
- ◆ The Forestry Commission organises events and activities all year round, to find out what is happening at Salcey Forest visit <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/recreation.nsf/LUWebDocsByKey/EnglandNorthamptonshireNoForestSalceyForest>
- ◆ There are often fun activities in libraries for children and families during half term and holidays contact your local library for more information.

OUT OF SCHOOL CLUBS	Kids Stop, Blisworth, Tel: 01604 858 414	Hackleton Out of School Club, Tel: 01604 871299	Crazy 4 Kids, Roade & Collingtree tel: 07545 267056	Schools Out, Yardley Gobion, Tel 01908 542460
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CAMPS & RESIDENTIALS	www.kingscamps.org	www.supercamps.co.uk	www.doit4real.co.uk	www.rockuk.org/centres/frontier-centre
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**Don't forget Ofsted registered providers may accept childcare Vouchers
for full or part payment towards holiday activities.**

